

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**APRIL 5, 2022**

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:37 p.m. via Zoom.

**Members Present**

Attorney Allison M. Near, **Chair**  
Honorable Laura F. Baldini  
G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.  
Honorable William R. Dyson  
Aimee Golbert, LCSW  
Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza  
Honorable Kevin S. Russo

**Others Present**

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender  
John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender  
Molly Arabolos, Assistant Public Defender  
New Haven Judicial District  
Jennifer Bourn, Chief of Legal Services  
Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford  
Christopher D. Eddy, Public Defender  
New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15  
Christopher Gonsalves, Investigator II  
Geographical Area 23 (New Haven) – Public Session  
Jared Millbrandt, Public Defender (*Via Telephone*)  
Stamford Judicial District/Geographical Area 1

William D. O'Connor, III, Senior Assistant Public Defender  
Psychiatric Defense Unit, Connecticut Valley Hospital  
Office of Chief Public Defender (Middletown)  
Thomas J. Paoletta, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport)  
David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the minutes of March 1, 2022 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to go into Executive Session at 4:38 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Molly Arabolos to the position of Public Defender, New Haven Judicial District.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
MOLLY ARABOLOS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Denis J. O'Malley to the position of Assistant Public Defender, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
DENIS J. O'MALLEY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Sean Scott to the

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
SEAN SCOTT

position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 1 (Stamford).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney William V. Deegan to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15. Honorable Laura F. Baldini recused herself from the vote.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
WILLIAM V. DEEGAN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Margaret O'Neill to the position of Provisional Deputy Assistant Public Defender (3L), New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15.

APPOINTMENT OF  
MARGARET O'NEILL

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Brooklyn Campagna to the position of Provisional Deputy Assistant Public Defender (3L), Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF  
BROOKLYN CAMPAGNA

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Samantha Pernal to the position of Provisional Deputy Assistant Public Defender (3L), Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF  
SAMANTHA PERNAL

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Hannah Snow to the position of Provisional Deputy Assistant Public Defender (3L), Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF  
HANNAH SNOW

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Marissa Wheeler to the

APPOINTMENT OF  
MARISSA WHEELER

position of Provisional Deputy Assistant Public Defender (3L), Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Jaucilynne Menard to the position of Public Defender Administrative Assistant, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Chief Social Worker and Chief Investigator Units, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
JAUCILYNNE MENARD

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Felecia Griffiths to the position of Fiscal Administrative Assistant II, Financial Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
FELECIA GRIFFITHS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Kirsten Gardner to the position of Paralegal I, CT Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
KIRSTEN GARDNER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Carol Gonzalez to the position of Paralegal II, Psychiatric Defense Unit, Connecticut Valley Hospital, Office of Chief Public Defender, Middletown.

RATIFICATION OF  
CAROL GONZALEZ

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Marcus Adorno to the position of Fiscal Database Assistant, Assigned Counsel Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
MARCUS ADORNO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Jessica Perry to the position of Public Defender Secretary II, Waterbury Juvenile Matters.

RATIFICATION OF  
JESSICA PERRY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to reappoint the following attorney to a new four-year term: Public Defender, TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Waterbury Judicial District, expiring on 4/13/2026.

ATTORNEY  
REAPPOINTMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Investigator III, Meghan Therkildsen, New Haven Juvenile Matters, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Investigator I, Calyx Garcia, Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 4-2022-01; 4-2022-02; 4-2022-03; and 4-2022-04.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 4-2022-05 and 4-2022-06.

RATIFICATION OF EXPENSES

The Chief Public Defender discussed the Division's staffing and budget.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Deputy Chief Public Defender